

district, between Mount Gambier and Beachport, in waterholes. I have never seen or heard of any eels being caught in the Murray."

Having seen that eels and blackfish (*Gadopsis*) were being introduced into Western Australian streams, I wrote to Mr. L. Le Souëf, Secretary of the Acclimatization Committee of Western Australia, in Perth. He says there are certainly no eels in the southern streams, and inquiries made by him for me resulted in no evidence of their occurrence in the northern rivers of the State.

The Horn Expedition found no eels in the Finke basin, though other fish were common in places, even up to over a pound in weight.

"The British Museum Catalogue" records eels from Cape York, in the north of Queensland, and right down the east coast. We now know they are absent from all the interior basins, and from the Murray basin. They are unknown in South Australia, except in the south-east, and are absent from Western Australia. I have not been able to find whether they occur in the Northern Territory or in the Gulf country.

Looking at the wider distribution of the genus *Anguilla*, Günther, in his "Introduction to the Study of Fishes," says it occurs throughout Europe, except in the Black Sea and Caspian basin. The genus is unknown in South America, in Western North America, and in West Africa. Now, curiously, this deficiency is extended to the south-west of Australia, and to the greater part of its south coast.

This is an extremely puzzling series of facts. Did the genus breed in fresh water we might guess at a solution, but breeding in the sea, as it does, I can suggest no explanation.

THE RANGE OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES PARRAKEET, *SPATHOPTERUS ALEXANDRÆ*, NORTH.

BY G. A. KEARTLAND.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 10th July, 1905.)

As time elapses we are gradually gaining information regarding the range of these beautiful parrakeets, which proves it to be more extensive than was at first supposed.

These birds were originally discovered by Mr. Waterhouse, over forty years ago, at Howell's Ponds, in the far north. The next specimens, secured about twenty-five years later, were a pair of nestlings taken by Mr. Magarey at Crown Point station, on the Finke River, north-west of Charlotte Waters. Then, during Lord Kintore's overland trip from Port Darwin to Adelaide, Dr. Stirling shot several at Newcastle Waters. On 16th June, 1894,

they were found by the members of the Horn Scientific Exploring Expedition near Glen Edith, on the western extremity of the West Macdonnell Ranges, almost due north of Lake Amadeus. It was on this occasion that I obtained about fifteen specimens, some of which are to be found in the museums of Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide. In November, 1894, Mr. Chas. Pritchard found them breeding on the Hale River, near Alice Springs, when he secured a number of nestlings, one of which is still alive in the possession of Mr. Chas. French, jun. In the same month Mr. C. E. Cowle reported seeing them occasionally flying around Illamurta. In August, 1896, these parrakeets were seen and shot in the Great Sandy Desert of North-West Australia, on the route of the Calvert Exploring Expedition, about 300 miles north-east of Lake Way, and on several subsequent occasions as we went northwards towards Separation Well. In March, 1897, I shot two out of a flock about fifty miles north of Joanna Spring. Mr. L. A. Wells, our leader, next saw them within fifty miles of the Fitzroy River, West Kimberley, in May, 1897. About three years ago they were found breeding about forty miles from the Menzies goldfield in Western Australia, and three young ones taken from there have been brought to Melbourne. Last month Mr. L. A. Wells wrote to me saying that whilst on the Alberga River recently he found these birds breeding within eighty miles of Oodnadatta, the terminus of the trans-continental railway. This is the first time they have been noted in South Australia proper, and the most southerly point by several hundred miles of which we have any record. Hitherto Crown Point was the southern boundary.

It is remarkable that they have never been known to breed twice in the same district. They are always found in or near spinifex country, and their food consists chiefly of the seeds of Spinifex Grass, *Triodia irritans*, and Portulaca. The former resembles small canary seed, and the latter is not unlike coarse gunpowder. As spinifex abounds largely in Queensland and New South Wales, it is possible we may yet have reports of the Princess of Wales Parakeets being found in those States. Up to the present their range has been limited to the western side of the continent.

ERRATA.

On page 55, line 5, page 56, line 17, and page 74, line 8 from bottom, for "*Aprasia pulchella*" read "*Delma fraseri*, Gray."

On page 64, par. 4, strike out words "compiled from the sources mentioned," and after "classification" add — "The species in brackets, recorded by Watts, I have not seen."